



BRUCE BABBITT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

August 30, 1983

Mr. George Munroe
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman of the Board
Phelps Dodge Corporation
300 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Munroe:

Like all Arizonans, I have been disappointed at the lack of progress in the negotiations between Phelps Dodge and the striking copper unions. I recognize that any settlement of this dispute must ultimately occur at the bargaining table, and I urge the parties to exert every effort toward an agreement.

Pending such an agreement, I am extremely concerned about the human costs of this dispute. The news media have carried accounts of a number of planned evictions of workers from Phelps Dodge owned housing. Phelps Dodge may be within its legal rights in undertaking these actions. But, as Governor of this State, I believe that the human costs of such evictions, particularly at the beginning of the school year, outweigh any arguments to the contrary. A number of those faced with loss of their homes have lived in the mining communities for years. It makes no sense summarily to uproot these families and add to the human tragedy of this situation.

I am therefore asking Phelps Dodge to withdraw all pending eviction notices to striking workers. There will be time enough when this strike is settled for Phelps Dodge to consider its rights as a landlord with respect to company owned housing. In the meantime, the Company's obligations as a citizen suggest a more humanitarian approach.

Sincerely,

Bruce Babbitt
Governor

BB:dpb

